

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: IAEA

SUBJECT: REDUCTION IN US BASE RATE OF ASSESSMENT IN IAEA

REF: STATE 194561

1. AS NOTED REFTTEL, US WILL SEEK A REDUCTION IN ITS BASE RATE OF ASSESSMENT IN IAEA FOR 1975 AT 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE WHICH WILL MEET IN VIENNA ON SEPT 16-23. FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS, FRANCE IS IN A SPECIAL SITUATION ON THIS MATTER, BUT SINCE FRANCE HAS SUPPORTED REDUCTIONS IN US ASSESSMENT RATES IN UN SYSTEM, EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO MAKE APPROACH TO GOF TO EXPLAIN US POSITION AND ASK FOR GOF COOPERATION.

2. FYI: CRUX OF SITUATION IS THAT FRANCE HAS SUPPORTED REDUCTIONS IN US RATE OF ASSESSMENT IN UN AND OTHER SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND WE STRONGLY HOPE GOF WILL SUPPORT A SIMILAR REDUCTION FOR THE US IN THE IAEA. IN CONTRAST TO OTHER WEO'S, HOWEVER, FRANCE HAS A CONSISTENT RECORD OF

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OPPOSITION TO SAFEGUARDS FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS IN IAEA,

WAS LONE VOTER AGAINST THESE ARRANGEMENTS IN IAEA BOARD, AND HAS RESERVED ITS POSITION ON THIS ASPECT OF IAEA SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS AT EVERY GENERAL CONFERENCE SINCE 1971. DEPT IS CONCERNED THAT FRANCE, IN SEEKING TO MAINTAIN ITS RECORD ON SAFEGUARDS FINANCING AT THIS GC, MIGHT OPEN A DISCUSSION WHICH COULD COMPROMISE REDUCTION OF US BASE RATE OF ASSESSMENT. ANOTHER POTENTIALLY DIFFICULT FACTOR IS THAT FRANCE'S BASE RATE OF ASSESSMENT IN IAEA IS DUE TO BE INCREASED FROM 5.76 PERCENT IN 1974 TO 6.07 PERCENT IN 1975, WHILE FRANCE'S UN RATE DECREASES FROM 6.00 PERCENT IN 1971-73 TO 5.68 PERCENT IN 1974-76. IF FRENCH RAISE THIS, SUGGEST YOU DRAW ON PARA 5(C) IN REFTEL, BUT NOTE THAT IAEA SECRETARIAT IN VIENNA BEST EQUIPPED TO EXPLAIN. END FYI.

3. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO APPROACH GOF MFA (AND FINANCE MINISTRY OFFICIALS IF APPROPRIATE) ESSENTIALLY ALONG LINES SET FORTH IN PARA 4, REFTEL. DEPT WILL RELY ON EMBASSY'S JUDGMENT AS TO MOST EFFECTIVE FORM AND CONTENT OF APPROACH, BUT RECOMMEND IT INCLUDE THESE ELEMENTS:

(A) EXPRESSION OF USG APPRECIATION FOR FRANCE'S CONSISTENT SUPPORT IN UN AND OTHER AGENCIES FOR REDUCTION IN US ASSESSMENT RATES.

(B) OUR HOPE THAT FRANCE WILL SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE SIMILAR REDUCTION IN IAEA.

(C) OUR SERIOUS CONCERN, NONETHELESS, THAT INITIATION OF ANY SIGNIFICANT DEBATE ON SAFEGUARDS FINANCING COULD ADVERSELY EFFECT OVERALL GC ACTION ON SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS, INCLUDING US REDUCTION.

(D) FACT THAT WE SEEK NO CHANGE IN FRANCE'S BASIC POSITION, BUT RATHER AN ACCOMMODATION AND FLEXIBILITY THAT WOULD SERVE COMMON INTERESTS OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS.

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